

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A communication network comprising a user equipment, an access network and a plurality of core networks, wherein said user equipment is configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks, said communication network comprising:

means for communicating separate ciphering parameters to said access network from said at least two of said core networks; and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks in said access network.

2. (Previously Presented) A communication network according to claim 1, further comprising

means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication network according to claim 1 wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering in a communication network comprising: a user equipment, an access network and a plurality of core networks, wherein said user equipment is configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks, said method comprising:

communicating separate ciphering parameters to said access network from said at least two of said plurality of core networks; and

selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering according to claim 4 further comprising ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering according to claim 4, wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering according to claim 4, wherein said access network comprises a plurality of entities dedicated for managing the ciphering of communications with user equipments located in a geographical area allocated to said respective entities,

and that when said user equipment moves from a geographical area allocated to a first ciphering managing entity to a geographical area allocated to a second ciphering managing entity, said first ciphering managing entity communicates used ciphering parameters to said second ciphering managing entity by signaling over said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

8. (Previously Presented) An access network connected to a plurality of core networks, and to a user equipment, wherein said user equipment is configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said access network comprising

means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks; and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

9. (Previously Presented) An access network element for an access network connected to a plurality of core networks and to a user equipment configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said access network element comprising:

means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks; and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

10. (Previously Presented) An access network element according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

11. (Previously Presented) An access network element according to claim 10, wherein said communications are signaling messages.

12. (Previously Presented) An access network element according to claim 10, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.

13. (Previously Presented) An access network element according to claim 9, wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

14. (Previously Presented) An access network element according to claim 9, further comprising a radio network controller.

15. (Previously Presented) A ciphering controller for an access network connected to a plurality of core networks and to a user equipment configured to be simultaneously in

communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said ciphering controller comprising:

means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks; and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

16. (Previously Presented) A ciphering controller according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

17. (Previously Presented) A ciphering controller according to claim 16, wherein said communications are signaling messages.

18. (Previously Presented) A ciphering controller according to claim 16, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.

19. (Previously Presented) A ciphering controller according to claim 15, wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

20. (Previously Presented) A communication network according to claim 2, wherein said communications are signaling messages.

21. (Previously Presented) A communication network according to claim 2, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering according to claim 5, wherein said communications are signaling messages.

S.N.: 09/868,107
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23. (Previously Presented) A method of ciphering according to claim 5, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.